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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 499
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Susan Bassal
for her numerous accomplishments.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is very proud of our young citizens who
work hard and achieve success; and

WHEREAS, one such extraordinary person is Susan Bassal, who was selected the 1996
Miss Teen of Tennessee and was chosen as a merit finalist in the Miss Teen of America contest
in August, 1997; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bassal, the daughter of Dr. Aly and Maha Bassal, is a junior at East
Tennessee State University; Susan has one brother, Omar, and one sister, Sarah; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished graduate of Elizabethton High School, she served admirably
as Student Government President, member of the Homecoming Court, Secretary of the Drama
Club, Head of Publicity and Co-Treasurer of the Civinettes, graduation marshal, Creative
Consultant for Chemistry in Action, Secretary of Youth to Youth drug-free support group,
newspaper reporter, page editor and columnist, and was a reporter for the school yearbook; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, she has followed in the finest traditions of the Volunteer
State. Despite the many tough academic demands of high school, she generously contributed
her time and considerable expertise as a member of the D.A.R.E. program, made monthly visits
to nursing homes, helped with the Handicapped Picnic, sponsored a very successful one-day

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smoke-out with the American Cancer Society, did volunteer work at a local food bank, was a member of the Student Council and worked diligently at a children's summer enrichment camp; and

WHEREAS, she was named an All-American Scholar, received the Youth to Youth Outstanding Service Award, represented her school at the Tennessee Association of Student Councils State Convention, won the National Leadership and Service Award, received a Perfect 1,000 and a Gold Medal in the United States Academic Decathlon, was listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students* and was a member of the National Honor Society for two years; and

WHEREAS, Susan is a former Miss Watauga Valley; and

WHEREAS, her impressive high school record has been equaled by her excellent collegiate career. With an exemplary A average, she is first in a class of 3,000 students, has made the Dean's List each semester, and was elected from the United States as one of four National Executive Committee members of Gamma Beta Phi, a 55,000 member National Honor and Community Service Society; and

WHEREAS, an inspiring individual, Susan finished fourth in Senator James Abourezk's tough essay contest, was elected Membership Secretary of the ETSU Gamma Beta Phi chapter, received a CBS scholarship based on her scholastics and potential for success, has been highlighted in "Let's Communicate", was selected President of the Academic Advantage Program, and is a valued member of the National Honor and Community Service Society, Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society and Alpha Sigma Iota Broadcasting Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, a broadcasting major, she has been a superlative news anchor, producer, and assignment editor for the highly regarded WETS-TV News at Five program; she also does a popular two-hour weekly radio show, is the co-host of Spectrum, a talk show, has produced several local commercials, was selected from a field of 60 applicants to work as Production Assistant and News Editor at the Best News Operation in Tennessee (CBS affiliate), and has

interviewed such notables as Jane Pauley, Bob Schieffer, former Senator and presidential candidate, Bob Dole, and Tara Holland, Miss America 1997; and

WHEREAS, because of her strong qualifications, Susan was one of only ten persons nationally to have been selected to work with SPJ-TV (Society of Professional Journalists) at their National Convention in October, 1997, in Denver, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, this very versatile person also speaks two foreign languages and has traveled to 18 countries; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, she was selected as one of 14 students at East Tennessee State University to be listed in *Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities*; and

WHEREAS, in the Fall of 1998, she will be admitted to the Washington Center to work with a major communication network such as CNN or White House Media Affairs; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause to honor and commend one of Tennessee's best and brightest; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and recognize Susan Bassal for her numerous accomplishments, and wish her much continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.